

*An Extract of Two Letters from Mr. Sampson Birch, an Alderman and Apothecary at Stafford, Concerning an Extraordinary Birth in Staffordshire, with Reflections thereon by Edw. Tyson M.D. Fellow of the Coll. of Physicians, and of the R. Society.*

**T**He wife of one *Taylor* in *Heywood* in *Staffordshire* about 24. or 25. years of Age, being Married about a year, in *January* last fell into *Travel*, and not being able to be delivered, after Five or Six days sent for Mr. *Hector* a *Chirurgeon* at *Lichfield*, and Mr. *Birch's* Wife : She perceived the *Child* Dead and in a wrong position for Birth; wherefore having placed it right, she applied six Instruments, and the *Chirurgeon* brought it away by strength, she afterwards brought away the *After-birth*; but then perceived that there was still remaining something besides, which lay separate from the Child and *Afterbirth*; but did very firmly adhere and was fixt to the Womb, in so much that in separating this, it was much more difficult. and painful to her than bringing away the dead Child, and occasioned a large Flux of Blood.

The Thing it self being sent by Mr. *Birch* to Dr. *Plot* at *Oxford*, and by him to the *Royal Society*, and so having an opportunity of observing it, and since of discoursing Mr. *Birch* himself; I shall here give not only a figure of this strange Body, but add to the accounts of it in the  
Let-

Letters, what I think Material. But must premise that twas mentioned in them, that the Child was perfectly formed; that the Mother was since recovered and walks abroad; that before Marriage she was never troubled with any remarkable Distempers: and that this body I am now going to describe was not observed to be included in any *Cystis*, the *Secundine* being all brought away before it.

The bigness and shape of this *Preternatural Body* will be easily conceived by our *Figure* which is made as exact and large as the thing it self. In the uppermost part thereof, was a round protuberant *Bone*  $3\frac{1}{2}$  Inches in compass; covered with a thick fleshy Skin; beset with short *Haires*; on the top of this *Bone* in a Circle were placed Eight *Dentes Molares* or those double *Teeth* we call *Grinders*. These so exactly resembled *Teeth* as to their shape, whiteness, hardness and in all other circumstances, that they can certainly be nothing else: a little below this, in an other *Bone* (which yet was fastned to the former) were placed Five other *Teeth* or *Dentes Molares*, these were not so in a cluster together as the former; but Four of them made almost a streight line, but some distance in the middle, and the Fifth a little out of rank, being placed below the Two uppermost.

The remaining part of this *Monstrous Body*, composed a large *Cystis* or *Bag*, filled with a liquid slimy matter, but not fætid. This *Cystis* on the outside was smooth, appeared somewhat Red, and was about the thickness of the *Scrotum*.

But farther to encrease the Wonder of this so extraordinary a Birth, we observed a little below the *Bone* (in which were set the Eight *Teeth* before described) a large lock of *Hair* of a bright brown colour, whose end was intricated, and intangled in a large quantity of *hair* of a more faded and yellowish color, which was fastned to the end of the *Cystis* opposite to these *Teeth*. But that this Lock of *Haire* was of a considerable length, we easily guessed

fed by the several small curles we observed in this yellowish *Haire*, which were of the same bright colour with the former *Lock*.

I must take notice that in the middle of the Circle of the Eight Teeth I observed a small hole, but which did not lead far: and tho, these *Teeth*, *Hair*, and a strong Imagination might create a fancy of some *Monstrous-head* here designed to be formed; yet considering how many and far more considerable Parts were wanting; I cannot but rather choose with the Sceptick *ἐπιχρη.* and suspend my belief thereof; or with *Pliny* to say; *Hoc nobis Miraculum, sibi Ludibrium Ingeniosa finxit Natura.*

What most I can parallel it with, are those *Instances* I have formerly given ( in the *Philosoph. Collect. Numb. 2.* ) of *Teeth*, *Bones* and *Hair* I have met with in the *Ovariums* of *Women*, as in one a *Dens Caninus*, or Eye Tooth on the out side of the *Cystis*; and within, a large quantity of a fine white long *Hair*, as in *Fig. 2.* In a second Woman Three *Dentes Molares* or *Grinders* perfectly formed, and a Fourth budding forth, all set in their distinct sockets in a *Bone*, as in the Third *Fig.* and in this *Cystis* a great deal of yellowish *Haire*. In a Third Woman dissected by Dr. *Sampson*, in each *Testicle* was a larg Tumor or *Cystis* which inclosed a very large quantity of *Haire*, and there was fastned to the sides of them Two *Bones*, represented in *Fig. 4.* and 5. which tho not *Teeth*, yet as to their Substance, tho not Shape, approaching something near them, and a like *Instance* too, Dr. *Needham* has Informed me, he has met with, of *Teeth* and *Haire* in the same part.

But our present Instance differs from the former; in that this was in the *Womb*, and firmly adhereing to it; the others in the *Ovarium*. In this the *Hair* was on the outside the *Cystis*, and rooted in its *Tunicle*, in the others twas contained within it. But as the *Child* which was perfectly formed, and with much difficulty at last was brought from this Woman; I doubt not at first, being included in

the *Egg*, descended from the *Ovarium*; so likewise this *Sub-ventaneous Egg* I question not might be transmitted from the same place; and *Nature* who is never Idle, being disappointed of forming in this a perfect *Fœtus*, made the best of what the matter would afford; and might produce these *Teeth*, *Bones* and *Haire*, which may be reckoned as *Animal Vegetables*.

How liable these *Parts* in women are to *Tumors*, there is none who have been conversant in *Morbid Dissections* but must be sensible; in so much that those frequent Instances I have met with, have fully perswaded me that *there is no Part in the Body is so often the seat and Causes of Dropsies in Women as the Ovarium*, a too Luxuriant afflux of Humors easily extending these minute *Egs* into large and sometimes most prodigious *Cystis*'s, that sometimes I have taken some Gallons of water out of them, where I have found them entire; tho most times the vast quantity of Waters bursts the *Membrane*, and so it empties it self into the Cavity of the *Abdomen*.

But there are some I find, who by no means will admit of *Egs*. But will have them all to be *Hydatides*. But til such time as I can find something more considerable objected against this *Hypothesis*; I cannot but firmly adhere to it, since to me it seems so clearly demonstrated, besides abundance of others, that *Instance* in the *Philosoph. Trans. Num, 147*. I think a good Proof, and that lately given in the *Journal de Medicine* makes it clear enough, which being remarkable it may gratify some, it may be, to have it in *English*.

*Philosoph. Transact.*  
*Numb. 150.*



*Fig. 1.*

*Fig. 2.*



*Fig. 3.*



*Fig. 4.*



*Fig. 5.*



*S. Sculp.*